

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY  
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats. a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, October 12, 2010, at 5:15 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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**PRESENT:** Jack Krueger, Sherry Steenboch, Donald Bettine, Jim Haskins, Duane "Snake" Pierce, John Walschinski, Joe Witkowski.  
**EXCUSED:** Kristen Verhaagh, Troy Ness, John Maino  
**ALSO PRESENT:** Jerry Polus

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\*\*Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1154

**1. Call Meeting to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jack Krueger at 5:15 p.m.

**2. Invocation by Jim Haskins.**

**3. Approve/Modify Agenda:**

Chair Krueger stated the agenda must be modified to accept the September 14, 2010 minutes provided to the committee members.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY BETTINE AND SECONDED BY HASKINS TO APPROVE AS MODIFIED. Vote taken. Nay: 1 (Witkowski) MOTION CARRIED**

**4. Approve/Modify Minutes of August 10, 2010.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY PIERCE AND SECONDED BY BETTINE TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2010 AND AUGUST 10, 2010 MINUTES. Vote taken. Nay: 1 (Witkowski) MOTION CARRIED**

**5. Members Report on Donating Businesses for Veterans' Day.**

Haskins reported that he had no additions at this time but noted the display in the Stowe Drugs window in De Pere, he stated it was pretty awesome. He received a letter from the Green Bay Yacht Club in which he read to the committee.

Walschinski reported that he had his list from last year and will contact his previous donors as well as work on adding new donors.

Bettine reported that he had contacted Seroogy's Chocolates and they will donate a candy bar or a chocolate covered cookie to all veterans and at both stores.

Steenboch reported that she contacted the four local newspapers (Green Bay Press Gazette, the Green Bay Sun, and the Ashwaubenon Press) and had heard back from two. The Green Bay Press Gazette stated that they will do what they could. She noted that she had contacted Time Warner Cable as well as the County Board office. She noted that she is about half way through contacting the people from her list.

Witkowski stated that he had contacted several businesses but asked the committee to provide him with additional information of what he should be asking for since this is his first year participating. The committee explained that they are looking for anything that is offered to veterans such as discounts or freebies on Veteran's Day and noted that once their list is compiled they publish that information in local newspapers, etc. Steenboch asked that all committee members provide her with their lists by the end of October to assure they make the publishing deadlines.

Pierce reported that he had lost a couple donors from previous years but will be working on adding new ones.

Krueger reported that the Museum and the NEW Zoo will be offering free admission to veterans again this year.

**6. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus (if available).**

Polus reported that they had their statewide fall conference last week in Port Washington and stated it was outstanding. Their spring conference is in LaCrosse and in Wausau in the fall. On Thursday he'll be in Rhinelander, the state VA meets. The concern at the state level is the budget, trust fund. He serves on the Finance Committee for the state VA. The major issue is how they are going to revitalize the trust fund which will run out of money in a year and a half (2012) unless they use other dollars, but from where? He plans to keep the committee updated after each meeting.

On a local level, the Veteran's Department budget had been approved by the County Executive as submitted. It next goes to the Human Services Committee on Wednesday, October 27, 2010 at ASPIRO, 1673 Dousman Street at 5:30 p.m. Prior to the discussion/approval of their budget they have public testimonies. People from the public can come and comment on any of the budgets within that category of Human Services committee. Following the action of the committee the final step is full County Board in November. Polus noted that people could come forward and request that the Veteran's office be fully staffed at their current level with no reductions, etc. To beat his target of 5% below current level reduce one full time position to .80 and he heard that at last night's Administration Committee meeting there is a list out there that may reduce the position even further. Polus stated that he gave his PowerPoint which talks about their office and what they do to the Human Services committee which went very well.

Polus informed that he had one staff member off on medical leave, this position handles all death benefits and anything related. The position will be currently vacant till the first of the year.

Polus stated he had not done so yet but had planned to submit a request to the Air Force Hot Brass Band to perform for next years fair.

In addition, Polus contacted Kathy Kocken, Brown County Fair Administrative Assistant and Exhibit Coordinator, and noted that he'd like to get together earlier next year to emphasize the importance of the promotion of "Veterans Day at the Fair". He stated they might want to invite the Fair Board in March or April. He hopes to have a commitment with the Air Force Band by then as well.

Polus added (which was discussed at the September meeting) Mayor Schmidt proposed a bill for all disabled veterans to be able to ride the busses for free. He informed that the Transit Authority told him this afternoon that Veterans have to show a Department of Veterans Affairs identification card with the words "services connected" or initials "SC". Service attendants for disabled veterans can also ride free.

With regards to the t-shirts, they ordered and received 25 and are now stocked with medium, large, XL and XXL. However, the cost for the XXL are more than the other sizes. A suggestion had been made to increase the costs to \$15. Krueger stated that since it was a fundraising effort to support their emergency fund they should go across the board with it. Polus asked that it be added as an agenda item for next months meeting. He stated that next month he will bring a report on actual sales of t-shirts, mugs, etc. from the Veteran's Office.

Polus informed that the VFW Posts and the Vietnam Veterans have donated over \$1,000 in gift cards to the Emergency Funds but they almost out. He stated they need some helps but had plans to contact other veterans groups.

Bettine questioned the latest in regards to the Old Glory Honor Flights; Pierce responded that there are two scheduled before the end of the year.

**7. Report from Committee Members Present (Bettine, Haskins, Maino, Ness, Pierce, Verhaagh, Walschinski & Witkowski).**

Bettine reported that at the last fair he had purchased donuts and cookies and felt that a majority of them went to the band. He recommended finding ways to spend the money more wisely.

Pierce noted that at 11:15 a.m. today, it was the anniversary of the attack on the U.S.S. Cole and asked that everyone take a moment of silence or say a prayer for the family it affected. He received information that in South Carolina, if you pretend to be a veteran you can be fined up to \$10,000 if found guilty. He also found out that in severe cases it can also be brought to the Supreme Court.

In honor of Columbus Day Witkowski performed a patriotic poem he had written before the committee.

Bettine reported that the United Patriotic Society is hosting their Veterans Day ceremony on November 11, 2010 at the Brown County Veterans Memorial Arena. Ceremony to start at 10:30 a.m. It will conclude at the Memorial Flagpole at 11 a.m.

**8. Such other Matters as Authorized by Law. None.**

**9. Adjourn.**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY HASKINS AND SECONDED BY STEENBOCH TO ADJOURN AT 5:55 P.M. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia A. Loehlein  
Recording Secretary